

Carolina country



My First Date

True confessions inside

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electric cooperatives



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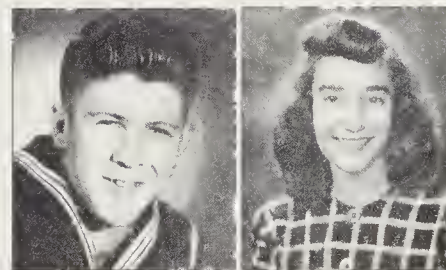
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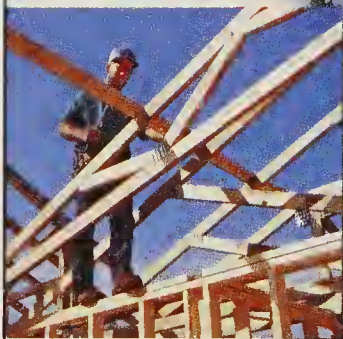
Slow-cooked Lemon Chicken, Italian
Vegetable Salad and Raspberry White
Chocolate Mousse.



On the Cover

They met in the Summer of '42.
James Huff rode 14 miles on a bicy-
cle to his first date with Barbara
Hawes. But it took 55 years before
they married each other. See their
story on page 14.

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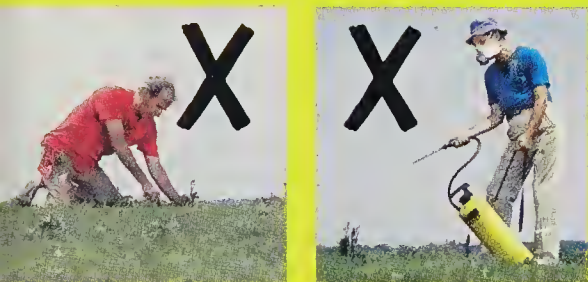
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Would you believe a lawn could be perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a zoysia lawn as "top lawn—nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer to August!

In PA, Mrs. M.R. Mitter wrote "I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed 2 times...When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours stays as green as ever." *That's how zoysia lawns cut water bills and mowing! Now read on!*

2 ENDS RE-SEEDING NEVER NEEDS REPLACEMENT

Plug in our zoysia grass and you'll never have to spend money on grass seed again! Since you won't be buying seeds, you won't need to dig and rake—then hope the seeds take root before birds eat them or the next hard rain washes them away.

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We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed at earliest correct planting time in your area.

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7 CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

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Will deregulation affect your electric service?

Thank you for the fine service from Albemarle EMC and its fine magazine.

I would like to ask some questions about deregulation of electric power service. How will it affect our EMC? Is it likely to have any effect on the delivery of electricity to the EMC?

In the event of a power shortage, will the EMC be cut back?

There is also talk that all electric users in North Carolina will pay a surcharge to help the 51 cities pay off their \$5 billion debt. That doesn't go well with me.

I would appreciate your views on these questions.

Robert Estus
Elizabeth City

Jeff Edwards replies:



Jeff Edwards

Thank you for your letter regarding deregulation. In addition to the many economic and engineering issues, consumer education and understanding of how the electric system works and the impact of proposed changes are two of North Carolina's electric cooperatives' most vital challenges.

Under the basic deregulation plan, utilities will be required to "unbundle" services. What does that mean? Your monthly electric bill now has all the services that bring the "juice" to your door "bundled" into a single line-item. In an "unbundled" business model, utilities would have to divide their businesses into components, and you would be charged for each separate utility service.

- Generation cost (*the power itself*)
- Transmission cost (*transportation over high-voltage lines*)
- Distribution cost (*the cost of getting the high voltage power, bringing it down to regular usage voltage levels and then bringing it through the cooperative lines to your home*)

Albemarle EMC will continue to meet your electricity needs today, as well as under deregulation.

In January 2001, the General Assembly's Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service decided to continue to look further into consumer issues of deregulation and how to encourage the development of competitive power supply before recommending any specific legislative action.

You asked about power shortages. While the outages in California occurred for many reasons (lots of power needed, too few operating plants, low water levels that limited hydroelectric power, etc.), in North Carolina, those in charge of looking out for our future electricity needs do not believe that we are currently in any danger of an electricity shortage. And we won't let it impact you.

Your final question is about the \$5 billion-plus debt of the 51 city-owned electric systems that purchased power plants in the 1970s. This debt and its repayment will only become a public policy issue if and when North Carolina decides to implement deregulation. For right now, the state is wisely steering a course of watching the overall impact of deregulation in states that have gone before to see that consumers will not be disadvantaged by any decisions to move forward.

Jeff Edwards is the manager of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, a cooperative serving more than 9,800 consumer-members in Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties.



Linemen and hornet nests

The January 2001 issue shows picture of a pole transformer with a hornet nest on it. You say call the EMC if we see one of these. No question, I certainly would not attempt to get it down. But how do the linemen get them down?

Robert Barnhill

Editor's Note: Unlike honeybee hives, which co-op linemen preserve and donate to beekeepers, a hornet nest must be destroyed to prevent harm to the linemen and equipment. Linemen typically shield themselves and use long poles to destroy the nests.



Walking on Water

These geese are walking across the iced-over lake that our property borders in Union Mills.

Lynette Melton
Rutherford EMC member

Still making hoe cakes

I was surprised to read the article about hoe cakes in your magazine [First Person, February 2001]. It was only in the last few years that I learned from my mother just exactly where the name came from. She told me that the early settlers were not well equipped with kitchen supplies, so they had to improvise. The "cake" placed on flat of a hoe over the campfire, as you reported, seemed to be just right for the job.

As a third generation Floridian, I grew up eating hoe cakes and homemade guava jelly for breakfast. I now make them for my family (I've had to adjust to other jellies). I've changed the recipe just a bit by making them with self-rising flour, shortening and milk, just like you make biscuits. Pour a dash of oil in the iron skillet, cook on low heat, let rise, turn once, add butter and jelly. It serves as a great nostalgic memory.

Grace Taylor
Bogue, NC

"Parson of the Hills"

For several years I have tried in vain to find the book "Parson of the Hills," written by Charles Keyes. Could someone tell me where I might find the book? It is in the library, but I don't want to check it out, I want to buy it. Thanks for any help.

Susie Willis
380 Cruz Lane
Hickory, NC 28601

For what ails you

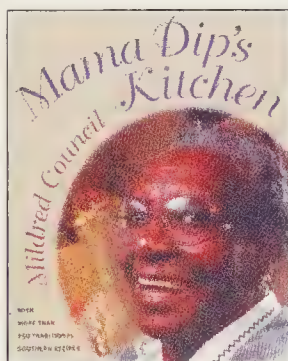
My mother being 80 years old has poor vision as well as osteoporosis. She has been taking a calcium supplement which she complains is difficult to swallow.

A friend of mine recommended a certain chewable calcium supplement known as Viactiv. So the next time I went to the drug store, I bought a box of them for her.

As I was putting the box of supplements on her medicine shelf, she looks up and says in a perturbed voice, "I don't know why you bought that. I don't need that at my age."

After I explained the difference between Viactiv and Viagra, she and I had the best laugh.

Charlotte Kelly
Atkinson
Four County EMC member



Looking for Mama Dip's kitchen

I am interested in knowing how to purchase a cookbook you showed in your magazine before Christmas. It was by a black woman who has a restaurant in Chapel Hill.

Kitty Terrell
By e-mail

Mildred Council, who is Chapel Hill's "Mama Dip," shares her life in food and 263 treasured recipes from her legendary restaurant in her new book, "Mama Dip's Kitchen." It is available in bookstores for \$27.50 hardcover or \$15.95 softcover. Or call The University of North Carolina Press in Chapel Hill at (800) 848-6224. Web site: www.uncpress.unc.edu

Nana's Honey Buns

My 89-year-old father-in-law and I made a batch of "Nana's Honey Buns," a recipe submitted by Christiana M. Walkley, which you printed in a recent issue of your magazine. The buns were melt-in-your-mouth delicious, just like other old-world confections and desserts, lovingly produced years ago by my Hungarian mother-in-law with the wonderful name of Kunigunde.

Thanks to Ms. Walkley for sharing her childhood story and recipe. Her reminiscing inspired memories of our own.

Julia Howard
Ocracoke

Here again is that Hungarian family recipe.

Nana's Honey Buns

2 packages yeast
2 ½ cups warm milk
10 teaspoons sugar
Heat milk to lukewarm temp. Add sugar and yeast and let rise.

6 cups flour
5 egg yolks
2 teaspoon salt

Mix the 6 cups flour, egg yolks and salt. Add milk mixture to this and beat well until dough makes bubbles.

Cream ½ pound margarine with 1 cup sugar

Put dough on floured board and roll out flat. Smear margarine and sugar mixture all over the dough. Then roll dough into long roll. Cut into 1 inch pieces and arrange in a greased pan. Allow to rise 2 hours. Bake at 350 degrees. When starting to brown, brush them with mixture of ⅔ cup milk, 3 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla. Return to oven until done, about 30 minutes.



Our grandson Tyler "Ty" Tidick says "leaf me alone" in this picture taken by his father, Chad.

Judy Bingham
Cherryville

Confessions of a satisfied cooperative customer

We bought our first home in 1979—a modest 600 square-foot lake house. The view was worth more than the house. After six years and two children, we moved into an 1,800 square-foot ranch in a subdivision. Then, in 1990, we moved one more time—a golf course community and a house with more than 5,000 square feet of floor space.

The common element that made all of our moves possible? Hard work, some lucky breaks, and our electric cooperative.

That's right, our electric cooperative. We've been served by the same cooperative for 22 years in three different homes. And the experience in each home was marked in some positive way by the cooperative.

For example, budget billing was available for us in our first home at a time when a new teacher and a grad student thought a lot about making ends meet.

It was in Home #2 that we had a major storm that knocked out power all around us. We huddled in the dark, but we could see the crews outside working feverishly to restore power to the area's homes and farms.

In the third house, we learned of geothermal technology and the many benefits it brings for heating, cooling and water heating.

Three homes, 22 years, one co-op touching our lives in a positive way.

Over the course of those decades of service, I have learned a lot about cooperatives. The company I work for has done business with co-ops in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. And what I've found is that my own cooperative—as exceptional as it is—is quite similar to cooperatives all across the country.

There is a commitment to reliability, a commitment to community, and a commitment to concern for the customer that is virtually unrivaled by other businesses I run into. That's true everywhere I've been in my business travels.

From the Great Lakes to the Florida coast and from the Tideland area to the Texas plains, cooperatives embody a special spirit of service.

You may have heard something recently about Touchstone Energy and how it ties the nation's cooperatives together with four fundamental guiding principals: integrity, innovation, accountability and community involvement. Based on the experiences I've had for more than 20 years traveling in 11 states, it's true. It's true of board members who help set policy; it's true of management that puts that policy to work; and it's true of the men and women on the front lines who place a high priority on service and reliability.

More than 20 years, three houses, one co-op. They've proven themselves to me time and time again.

I'm grateful to them and to the others who put the customer first. I hope you share a regard for their efforts on my behalf and yours.

Phil Osborne

Phil Osborne is a marketing and research consultant in Danville, Kentucky. He can be reached by e-mail at posborne@prestongroup.com.

The Heifer Barn

There is a serenity about the heifer barn as evening approaches.

A full moon casts a soft, warm glow across the distant sky. I stand for a moment, gazing through the hayloft at the stars dancing in the faint veil of dusk. Young cattle anxiously await their serving of fresh grain and sweet-smelling hay. Their lowing hums a peaceful melody. My faithful dogs patiently wait until I finish my work.

Surely the Lord is present in this humble dwelling. We should be ever grateful for His many blessings, and for placing us in the care of His possessions.

*Barbara B. Beam
Beam's Dairy
Cherryville
Rutherford EMC*



What 3-year-olds know

The cover of the November issue of *Carolina Country* has truly touched a lot of hearts, including the parents of these "Peach Truck Divas." As the proud parent of one of these little cuties, I am so glad they can give people the joy they once felt as a child.

My child is the little curly headed one on the right. She is three, going on four, but thinks she is at least 16. We were standing outside at my mom's house one day in the spring, planting some flowers, when it began to sprinkle. We both looked at little Taylor and told her we needed to go in, and of course her reply was "Why?" We both told her because it was raining, and she said, "No it ain't, it's just the clouds spitting!"

I guess it just goes to show you can't outsmart a three year old.

*Kenie Beal
Denton*

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"Kuralt at White's Creek"

BY

Bob Timberlake



"The Lord is happiest when his children are at play."

AS A TRIBUTE to the memory of his good friend Charles Kuralt and the fond affection they had for their alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bob Timberlake has created a very special reproduction entitled "Kuralt at White's Creek." **This beautiful work will be offered as a time-limited edition with proceeds benefiting the Medical Programs of the North Carolina Children's Hospital and the Educational Foundation.**

"Kuralt at White's Creek" has an image area of 11" x 30" on 100% rag paper stock measuring 16 1/4" x 34 1/2". Each reproduction is hand-signed by Bob Timberlake, has hand-deckled edges, a debossed panel surrounding the image and is embossed with the seals of the Children's Hospital and Educational Foundation. **The ordering period for the release is from March 12, 2001 until June 16, 2001.** The edition size will be determined at the end of the reservation period. *Note: 75 artists proofs and 100 giclée prints will be included in the edition.*

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Why is there a power shortage in California? And, will the same thing happen in North Carolina?

The electric power shortage and general energy problems in California this winter brought to public attention the growing pains of a deregulated electric power market. California's 1998 legislation was one of the early attempts in the United States to reform the traditional way of supplying electricity to customers. Now the state's utilities and consumers are paying the price of being early out of the block.

Should North Carolina and your electric cooperative expect to see similar problems?

Staff at Carolina Country and the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation compiled the following answers to that question and others. We hope they help you understand the issues as they affect North Carolina and other states.

Can what happened in California happen here?

States which are in the process of deregulating electric utilities at the retail level are unlikely to see the chaos that affects California. By watching California, states such as North Carolina, which are considering deregulation, can learn what to avoid. In fact, on Jan. 23, North Carolina's legislative Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service decided not to recommend substantive legislation on deregulation in this year's legislature pending further study of the issues.

Why is California in this situation?

There are four main reasons: lack of electricity supply, lack of transmission lines, lack of long-term contracts for wholesale power and a problematic rate structure.

- **Supply** - California has not had a new electric power-generating power plant come on line in more than 10 years. Meanwhile, California's demand for electricity increased more than 3-times the predicted increase. Among the reasons for the unprecedented demand include the explosion of the Internet economy in California and the population explosion of neighboring states. California utilities import up to 25 percent of their electricity and traditionally have bought power from neighboring states such as Arizona, Washington and Nevada. Those states have become some of the fastest growing in the country and that has reduced the amount of electricity available to California. This problem was compounded when California required the state's utilities to sell some power plants.
- **Transmission lines** - California also needs more transmission lines to transport electricity from power plants to the utilities and to the user.
- **Long-term contracts** - California also prohibited the utilities from signing long-term contracts for power. Electric utilities were

required to buy power from the California Power Exchange, which bought and sold power on a daily basis.

- **Rates** - A main purpose of restructuring the electric utility power delivery system is to lower prices, and it worked in California in 1998 and 1999. But just as market pressure can force prices to drop, market forces can also send prices higher - and in California's case - the wholesale electric power costs went much higher. Meanwhile, the state's 1998 deregulation plan capped retail rates that consumers pay, resulting in a precarious situation for the electric utilities.

What's North Carolina's electric power supply situation?

Compared to California, North Carolina and the other southeastern states have a stable and reliable source of electric power. The "grid" that serves California - the grid refers to the interconnected system of power plants, high-voltage transmission lines and regional power delivery substations - recently has not had access to enough power to satisfy the demand for electricity in the state. The grid that serves the Southeast states, on the other hand, has access to the power supply it needs (including substantial reserves), because utilities have built generating plants as needed and the fuel mix for those plants has been balanced. California, however, will not draw on the Southeast's capacity to meet our requirements mainly because it's too far away to transmit that power efficiently.

Just because the regional power supply is adequate, however, does not mean that households, farms, businesses and government should not actively conserve energy and examine alternative energy sources and distribution technology.

Where does your co-op's electric power come from?

North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively buy their electric power from the North Carolina Electric Membership

Corporation (NCEMC), a Raleigh-based cooperative the state's electric co-ops formed in 1949. Through NCEMC, the cooperatives can buy power as a group and seek advantageous contracts and prices.

NCEMC owns a share of the Catawba nuclear power generating station in South Carolina, which can supply approximately 20 percent of the entire power requirement of the 26 co-ops. NCEMC purchases on the wholesale power market most of the remaining requirement, using short-term and long-term contracts. NCEMC is one of the largest such wholesale power buyers in the United States. NCEMC's contracts with wholesalers, and its ability to buy power on the open market, not only ensures the cooperatives of a steady power supply, but also allows NCEMC to secure the best possible price for that power, even during periods of high demand.

Where is North Carolina in terms of electricity deregulation?

North Carolina has taken a cautious, go-slow approach to electric utility deregulation. The state study commission recommended all North Carolina consumers be able to choose their electricity supplier by 2006, much like they can with their long distance telephone provider. However, that recommendation was made in May 2000, well before the problems in California arose. The commission still thinks North Carolina can be deregulated by 2006, but wants more study, especially into consumer protection and wholesale market issues, before it will recommend legislation.

What is the position of North Carolina's electric cooperatives?

Co-ops are active participants in the state's deregulation debate. Whether deregulation is a "good thing" or a "bad thing" is like food ... it depends how it's prepared. The cooperatives, like all other energy and consumer interests, are preparing for it. These are the "bottom line" concerns that the cooperatives have brought to the table:



1. Residential and small business must benefit from a deregulated marketplace. At the very least, consumers cannot be harmed. To date, the cooperatives have not seen benefit for residential and small business users. This is important to North Carolina's cooperatives because more than 95 percent of their customers are homes and small businesses.

2. The ability of electric consumers to come together, to aggregate their energy needs and create a market presence, will be a significant way for North Carolina's electric consumers to help themselves seek benefits in a "choice" environment. Aggregation is simply pooling of electric demand in order to get a lower rate. This will allow many groups access to the market. Aggregation is the foundation of electric cooperatives; they have been "aggregating" for more than 60 years. Instead of the state's electric cooperatives buying power individually, they have pooled or "aggregated" their demand and have been able to deliver reliable power to their customers at a much better rate than if they each bought power on their own.

What do co-ops do if there is a power shortage?

Even with sufficient power supply, North Carolina and the Southeast could conceivably face a shortage given a combination of very high demand (such as in severely cold or hot weather) and power plants not producing as they should. Such a high-demand and low-supply situation exists in California, spurring conservation efforts and "rolling blackouts." If such conditions are forecast for North Carolina's cooperatives, the co-ops initiate a load management pro-

cedure that switches off power for brief periods of time to certain appliances, such as water heaters, central air conditioners, and heat pumps. Under normal conditions, load management is used to reduce demand for electricity at times of peak usage. When power resources are particularly strained, load management can be quite effective with little or no inconvenience to co-op members. If needed, however, the co-ops may issue public notices for consumers to reduce their power usage, and urge large users to turn to back-up generators. These efforts typically are enough to avoid further power curtailment; but if they aren't, the co-ops follow a "controlled brownout" procedure that involves reducing the voltage supplying a customer thus reducing consumption without any noticeable effect on the customer. And if the controlled brownout still does not reduce demand enough, co-ops can proceed with "rolling," or more accurately, rotational blackouts that actually shut off power for short periods in geographic sections. Under current conditions in North Carolina, the likelihood of such extreme action is remote.

How do the cooperatives acquire the power they distribute?

Because the electricity that we use in our homes and businesses can't be stored for future use, a supply must be available the instant it is needed wherever it is needed. Each day, NCEMC forecasts the co-ops' need for electric power for the following day and takes steps to ensure that power is available from its own generating resources and from its wholesale suppliers.

Beyond its own generating capability at the Catawba nuclear station, NCEMC buys

wholesale power from suppliers in the following way:

Northeast cooperatives: Virginia Power supplies most of the power to cooperatives in the northeast region of the state in compliance with a long-term NCEMC contract for about 250 megawatts (the most amount of power these co-ops collectively would need at times of peak demand).

Western cooperatives: Co-ops in a region roughly bordered by I-85 on the east and the Blue Ridge Mountains on the west require a peak demand of about 1,340 megawatts, which comes from a combination of NCEMC's Catawba generating station (623.5 megawatts), the federal Southeastern Power Administration's hydroelectric facilities (about 46 megawatts) and an 800-megawatt contract with CP&L that is used to meet the needs of both the western, central and southeast cooperatives. The remaining requirements are met by buying from wholesalers according to where NCEMC can get the best price.

Central and southeast cooperatives: Co-ops in this part of the state have a peak demand of about 1,700 megawatts and are supplied by NCEMC's wholesale power contracts with CP&L, American Electric Power, the Southeastern Power Administration, as well as other wholesalers according to where NCEMC can get the best price.

For more information about restructuring the electric utility industry, your cooperative's role and record, and where your power comes from, see our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com





Fuel cell manufacturer chooses Union County and Union Power

Union Power Cooperative, based in Monroe, has been selected as the electric service utility for a new 80,000-square-foot fuel cell manufacturing plant in Union County.



H Power portable fuel cell used for 50 to 100-watt applications.

Fuel cells are a new technology that generate electricity for small or mobile applications, such as mobile signs and remotely located buildings, as well as for back-up electric power. They generate electricity efficiently and cleanly from the electrochemical reaction of hydrogen and oxygen and are considered a promising technology for alternative means of providing power.

H Power Corporation, based in New Jersey, has signed a lease for the manufacturing facility in Union County's Airport Industrial Park. H Power is a subsidiary of Energy Co-Opportunity (ECO), a national energy services cooperative. Together they are developing a residential fuel cell for electric cooperatives.

Philip L. Wally, general manager of Union Power Cooperative, said, "We think it is fantastic that H Power is locating here. We look forward to doing whatever we can to help H Power get its plant up and running."

H Power's CEO Frank Gibbard says the company expects this facility to be ready for commercial production late this year. This lease culminates an extended search for the most favorable location for H Power's first manufacturing facility.

Speaking recently at a Touchstone Energy conference, Jean-Guy Chouinard, general manager of H Power Enterprises, said, "A major requirement of ours was to have a very good energy supply for our new facility. Service from a rural co-op gives us the high level of quality we need."

ECO is a cooperative formed by the nation's electric cooperatives and is closely allied with the program's leader in financial services, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). For more information, visit www.hpower.com

Satellite TV owners could now get local broadcasts

For years, rural television viewers have been denied access to local news, sports coverage, weather and emergency information. But if new federal legislation works the way lawmakers hope, that will change.

Before he left office, President Clinton signed the Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act authorizing \$1.25 billion in federal loan guarantees to help provide local television services to rural areas. The legislation paves the way for millions of satellite home dish subscribers in rural areas to receive satellite transmission of local broadcast station signals. Currently, satellite companies offer local signals to only the top 40 television markets.

Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), a key supporter of the legislation, said over six million satellite dish owners who live in rural areas, as well as medium and small cities and towns across the United States, will no longer be denied local programming.

Electric cooperatives and their national associations pressed this issue in Congress.

— Electric Co-op Today

NC will study wholesale power, consumer issues, "green power"

The General Assembly's Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service in North Carolina agreed Jan. 23 not to recommend deregulation legislation of the state's electric utility industry in the 2001 session.

"I think the right thing is to step back and take a very deep breath," Commission Co-Chairman Rep. Ronnie Smith (D-Carteret) told the Associated Press.

Citing problems in California, where deregulation has contributed to a power crisis and rolling blackouts, Smith and other commission members called for additional studies before pursuing deregulation in North Carolina. The commission voted to study ways to make the wholesale market for electricity more competitive and ways to protect consumers.

It also asked the North Carolina Utilities Commission to develop recommendations for a "green check-off" to support environmentally friendly and renewable-energy programs and a public benefit fund check-off on utility bills to help poor families with weatherization programs. In addition, the commission asked the NCUC to streamline the process for allowing new generation facilities to come on-line.

The study commission retained a recommendation for partial deregulation by 2005 and full deregulation by 2006, but Sen. David Hoyle (D-Gaston), the other commission co-chairman, said that plan might not be realistic.

Reports from the additional studies the commission authorized should be completed before the General Assembly adjourns this summer, and those reports should help the commission determine if their deregulation target dates are feasible.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC helps to build Princeville homes

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC was among the corporate, private and faith groups who helped build 12 homes in 12 days in Princeville earlier this winter. Tarboro/Edgecombe Habitat for Humanity led the project in this town that was destroyed by Hurricane Floyd flooding in 1999.

The electric co-op, whose headquarters down the road also was devastated in the flood, supplied the electrical wiring and labor for the 1,040-square-foot houses.

Lowe's gave building materials and labor and was the largest corporate contributor.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC General Manager Richard Fay said, "Lowe's contributions are truly incredible and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC appreciates the opportunity to also help. Our staff is made up of local people who have an indescribable loyalty to the cooperative they work for and the communities they live in."

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees Randall Bell, Ernie James, Alan Johnson, David Davis, Richard Fay, Steve Pavelsky and Steve Lewis quickly volunteered to do the inside wiring for all 12 homes. The co-op provided at no cost the underground services as well as the temporary services and power costs.



During the house building in Princeville last January are (from left) Tarboro Mayor Donald Harris, State Sen. Bob Martin, co-op General Manager Richard Fay and State Rep. Edith Warren.

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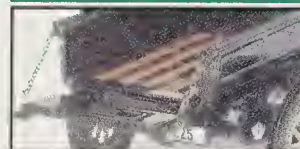
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My First Date

Even though your daddy said you weren't old enough or smart enough, he let you go out anyway.

Who can forget that first time, just the two of you out alone? Well, I guess I could, it was so long ago (and in kindergarten we were so young and carefree and didn't think we had to remember anything). I do remember wrestling and punching Brian Pate when he insisted on coming along as Cheryl and I walked down a sand road. And I remember driving my mother's car, fetching Brenda, parking along the creek, listening to the radio, talking all night, driving her home, then learning the next day about how dull I was.

There are some really fun stories here about your first date. So many of them told of courtships ending in happy marriages, which is encouraging. We received plenty of good ones and will publish more on our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com.

Next month we'll run your unbelievable but true tales. They are streaming in here, so the judges' selections ought to be zingers. (Deadline was Feb. 15.) To see the year's remaining themes and rules, go to page 17.

Thanks to everyone who sent in stories. We feel even closer to you now, knowing what happened that first time out.

— Michael E.C. Gery

52 years later

My first date took place in 1942. I had met a boy, James Huff, at a church meeting. He lived 14 miles away in Lawrenceville, Ga., and I lived in Norcross. We started writing letters, and I soon invited him to a hayride. He rode his bike 28 miles roundtrip to keep that date. We were both 14. This was a first date for both of us. He bashfully held my hand (no kiss for years).



Barbara Walker and James Huff married each other 55 years after their first date.

Needless to say, we were "smitten." We dated for seven years and wrote each other while he spent several years in the Navy. When he returned home in 1947, things didn't work out, so we went on to marry others and raised families. However, we met again in 1998 after 52 years apart. It was "love at first sight" again. We married six months later and now live in Hayesville. We love the mountains and slower pace of life.

Our first date after 52 years was just as special as the one in 1942. He told me I looked the same as the girl he fell in love with many years ago.

Barbara Walker Huff
Hayesville
Blue Ridge Mountain EMC

Bad hair date

When I got my driver's license in 1957, my father told me I could take the car out at night for dating only. This encouraged me to ask Darlene Campbell to a dance, despite my self-imposed stigma of having big lips and zits, and smelling like the three cows that I milked twice a day. In preparation, I spent days learning to use oxy pads, experimenting with the proper amount of Aqua Velva needed to overcome cow smell, and learning to dance with a broom in front of a mirror.

Darlene was a frizzy-haired Cool Spring cheerleader charmingly tucked behind white-rimmed glasses. The ecstasy of the evening ended when during a cheek-to-cheek dance, my pink bubble gum became entangled in her frizzy hair. My whole life flashed before me as I weighed the possibilities of suicide against ultimate embarrassment and ridicule.

Ironically the song was Floyd Cramer's "Last Date," which is a very long song that gave me six minutes to gently use my fingers to strain her hair through my front teeth. At the end of the song I left only a few, small pink streamers in her hair, and I had a mouth full of hairy chewing gum.

Sonny Koontz
Thomasville
EnergyUnited

P.S. I have changed the girl's name for this story, but when I saw her two years ago and told her about this moment, she said she was unaware anything had happened.

Sleeping together

I was raised on a tobacco farm in Surry County, and my first date was with a boy in our community who also worked in the tobacco crops. We had both looked forward enthusiastically to our "Saturday Night." However, there was much to take care of before we could leave on our date. I thought my parents were trying to give me so many chores that I would be too exhausted to want to go anywhere. Apparently the same was happening with my date.

When he arrived, we decided on going to the drive-in movie.

The movie had hardly begun when I realized I was more interested in the relaxation than the movie. I fell fast asleep! Little did I know the same thing was happening with my date.

When the movie was over, an attendant had to let us know it was time to leave. Neither realized the other had slept through the entire movie. We tried to tell each other how much we enjoyed the movie without indulging specifics about the picture. How embarrassing it was for us both.

We had several dates before we ever confessed to anyone of what happened on our first date. The general thought young people today would be "what a boring date," but our thought was "what a restful date."

We did not marry but remain good friends today. We still laugh about the dates we had when we were able to get away from home and farm work for a while and find relaxation.

Ruth Watson
Mt. Airy
Surry-Yadkin EMC

The first time with Wild Sammy

I had my first date 28 years ago with Sammy, a very quiet and shy young man who wore polyester pants and "people shirts" (shirts with designs of people on them). He was skinny as a rail and had dark hair and beautiful, piercing brown eyes. He was so cute!

At 6 p.m. on a warm Saturday evening, we headed toward Hickory in his bright yellow car with the black stripes and "wings." We were going to Hardees and then to the movies. He didn't say much and pretty much left the talking to me, which was no problem because I never knew when to shut up.

We reached Hardees with an overheated radiator, and the parking lot quickly became engulfed in smoke. He went inside to get the food, and I slid down in the seat hoping nobody would see me. Red as a beet, Sammy returned, gave me my burger and drink, opened his sandwich and immediately spilled his drink between his legs. Sitting in a puddle of Pepsi, we both agreed that a movie was now out of the question. We finished eating almost in silence when he asked quietly, "Do you want to drive by a haunted house in Catawba and see if the lights come on?" Wow! What a wild guy! I could hardly contain myself.

Needless to say, life has been more than interesting after 27 years of marriage. Yup, I married him. I figured he needed me, what can I say? He has become the love of my life, my tender lover, my most precious friend and a gift from God. I truly look forward to spending the rest of my life with him as Mrs. Samuel Sherrill.

Elizabeth B. Sherrill
Sherrills Ford
EnergyUnited



As a blind date on Aug. 10, 1952, he showed up in a flowered shirt and red pants and took her to the Norlina drive-in movie. He asked for a date the following week, but forgot to show up that time. He took her to the 1953 prom (evidence shown here) and married her three years later. Owen and Alice Rooker Robertson have three children, six grandchildren and live in Warrenton (Halifax EMC).

Oh, don't mind him

When I was a senior in high school, my older sister and my mother greatly anticipated my first date. My father, however, did not share the same enthusiasm and ran to the door when the doorbell rang. He promptly greeted Shawn and asked him to follow him down to his office.

Realizing that this was not a good idea, I reminded my father that we were meeting some friends at the state fair and we really didn't have time for small talk. Ignoring me, my father asked Shawn to have a seat and began to unveil his large gun collection, explaining how precise his aim was and how much damage could be inflicted with each gun. My date sat silently until my father felt he had made his point.

As my dad walked us to the door, he gave me an unexpected hug and Shawn a hearty thump on the back. Pulling out of the driveway, Shawn said that he was feeling a little sick and asked if we could just grab a bite to eat and call it a night.

After a very awkward dinner we arrived back at my house only an hour after we had left. He walked me to the door, and before I could turn around, he was halfway back to his truck. Needless to say, I did not have many dates for a while.

Melody Carter
Rutherfordon
Rutherford Electric

Make sure you're on firm ground

It was the summer of 1967. I was 16 and hadn't had my driver's license very long. It was on a Sunday night with a pretty, blonde 16-year-old I had met at the bowling alley in Laurinburg. Her name was Cecelia Joseph, and I thought I was madly in love.

There was not a whole lot to do on a Sunday night in those days, so my plans were to borrow my daddy's car and check out this parking place I had found near my home. I picked her up at that night and proceeded straight to my parking spot.

A few minutes into my parking session a bad thundercloud came up. Both of us were scared, so we decided to leave. As we were leaving, we got stuck in the mud. We ran about two miles in this bad storm to my house. When we got to my house, I had to explain to my daddy why I had his new car stuck in the mud, in the woods, with a girl. And later I had to explain to her parents.

Chuck Leviner
Laurel Hill
Pee Dee Electric

Let's try this again

In 1953 I had just graduated from high school in St. Petersburg, Fla., and was attending a junior college in my hometown. A young man who had just returned from the Korean War was also a student. He was one of the few students in those days who had a car, and he would pull up to the corner bus stop at school and ask if anyone wanted a ride to town.

On one of those occasions I accepted, and after several weeks of riding with him he asked me if I would go out with him. Our first date was to an "Ice Capades" show in a nearby city. When he brought me home that night and walked me to the door, he asked if he could kiss me goodnight. I blushed as girls did in 1953 and said OK. It was dark, and as he stepped forward he fell into a hole my dog "Dixie" had dug. We laughed; he brushed himself off and tried again. The second time was better.

I married Lou in 1955, have had 7 children, been married now for 45 happy years and have had many laughs as we reminisce about our first kiss.

Evelyn Wegman
Cape Carteret
Carteret-Craven Electric

July 2000 in Hartford, Conn.

My first date wasn't really a teen boy and teen girl date. But I did go out with someone this summer, July 2000. His name is Clearance Momolo, and he is my biological father.

I met him for the first time this summer. I live in Charlotte, but at the time I was visit-

continued on page 16

ing friends in Hartford, Conn., and he drove up there to see me. He lives in Maryland.

I was so surprised and happy, I started crying, but they were happy tears. At first we were just talking and catching up on a whole lot of things, like my school life, Christian life and not too much of my love life. After that my father and I went out driving in his new Impala sports car. It was a smooth ride. He had given me \$200 and took me on a shopping spree.

The day was gone already, and he had to leave in the morning. The next day he took me out for breakfast. We said our goodbyes, and he was on his way.

Javonne Gbenyon
Butler High School, Matthews
Union Power

The matchmaker

My first date was in 1996 with a boy from my second grade class. His name I can't say. I really don't remember. But I do remember the date.

We went with my Mom and older sister to a skating rink. We skated for hours, hand in hand. I had never skated before, and every time I fell he was there to pick me up. During the last I would say hour, my older sister started yelling from the food court things a person would never want to get out. Things like I still sleep with my mom and dad in their bed and still wet the bed.

This boy told me that he had brother just like her who would be good for her. I didn't tell her because she was getting married two months later.

Emma N. Wubbe
Charlotte
Union Power

On the first day, a Mountain Dew

My first date with Steve changed my life forever. A trip to the mountains one Saturday afternoon sounded simple enough. Shucks, I told him, we didn't have to go if he'd changed his mind. I made up stories like "I'm a grandma with two children," and

added seven years to my age. His response? Laughing, he said, "No problem" and said he'd been looking forward to our date all week.

Less than a month later, Steve told me he loved me.

On December 14 he brought me a Mountain Dew because it was 12 days until Christmas. Each day a gift came relating to the countdown: third day, three rolls of tape; 10th day, 10 ounces of marshmallows; 12th day, 12 long-stem red roses and on bended knee with ring, he asked me to marry him. Exactly a year after our first date, we married (it was the expiration date on those marshmallows).

Almost six years later, we now share our "12 days of Christmas" tradition with Jackson age 2½ and Stevi age 16 weeks. God truly has blessed us! Thinking back to that first date, yeah, I'd do it all over again. Because when you marry your best friend, it's the "happily ever after" dream come true.

Debbie Wiles
Yadkinville
EnergyUnited

Softball comes first

When I met Russell Culbreth, now my husband, I was 24. Who would have thought we would make it this far seeing how our first date started.

Russell was playing softball with my church team, and I thought he was cute. I went up to him and threw my arm around him and said, "Let's go out, just you and me, Saturday night!" He said, "OK." I had done the hard part, and the next step was up to him. He finally got around to making plans for our date on Saturday, July 29, 1995.

Russell told me that he had a softball tournament to play in, but that he would pick me up at 6:00 p.m. I was ready to go at 5:30. Well I waited, and at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 no sign of Russell. I was getting upset that he had stood me up and even if he called I would NOT go out with him!

Around 8:00 the phone rings. I wait a couple of rings and answer it. It was Russell. He said, "May I speak to Shasta, please?" I



The Pledge

Richard Foss was a 16-year-old new guy at school when Faye first laid eyes on him in 1953. He told a friend back then, "I'm going to marry that girl one day." He did three years later, and they're still married with three children and four grandchildren. Richard and Faye live in Kittrell and are members of Wake Electric.

said, "She's not here!" (He didn't know that it was me on the phone). Then Russell said, "She's not?" And I said, "NO, she moved to Hawaii!"

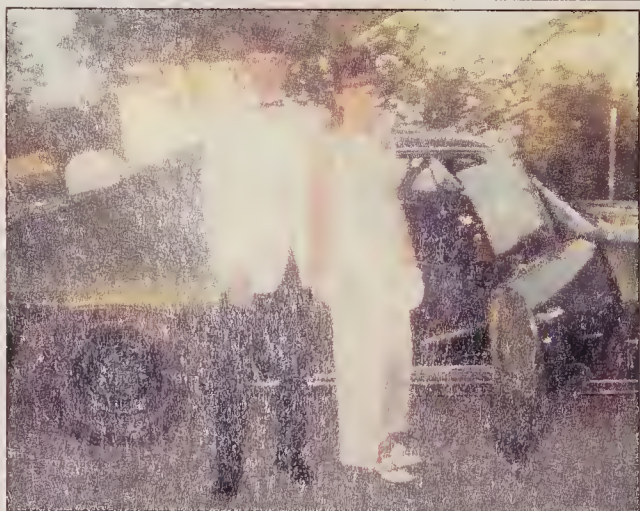
By then you could hear a smile in his voice as well as mine. I said she moved to Hawaii because she got stood up for a date. Then Russell said, "No she didn't, I am right here!" He explained that the tournament ran late and he told the boys, "I've got to get home. I've got a date tonight."

I gave Russell the opportunity to take me out that same night. He picked me up and we went to the movies and then to Pedro's for a wonderful meal. He opened my door for me and was the perfect gentleman. We have not been apart since then. We were married on August 15, 1999.

Shasta Culbreth
Godwin
South River EMC

Not Shy

She thought he was the cutest guy in the school. She invited him to see her in the West Stanley High School Christmas 1967 concert and the party afterwards. She was 15. He invited himself after that. Wayland and Janet Eford of Oakboro (Union Power) mark their 30th wedding anniversary this year.



Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

May 2001

"The View From Here"

What is the view from your window? Send a picture.

Deadline: March 15

June 2001

"Working in the Country"

What is the finest way to earn a living?

Deadline: April 15

July 2001

"The Finest Drive in North Carolina"

Where is it, what's there? Send pictures.

Deadline: May 15

August 2001

"The Finest Thing a Teacher Told Me"

Why did it make a difference?

Deadline: June 15

September 2001

"The Finest Photo in North Carolina"

Color, B&W. People, places.

Deadline: July 15

October 2001

"The Finest Restaurant in North Carolina"

Whose is it, and why is it so good?

Deadline: Aug. 15

November 2001

"The Best Thing That Ever Happened to North Carolina"

Long ago or recently.

Deadline: Sept. 15

December 2001

"The Finest Person in My Life"

Tell us why.

Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
6. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
7. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
8. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web site: www.carolinacountry.com.

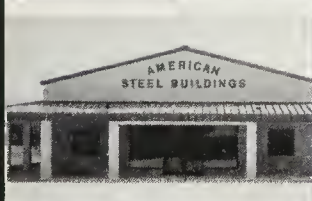
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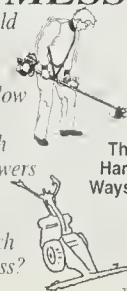
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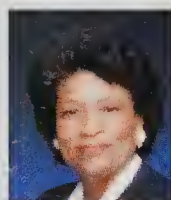
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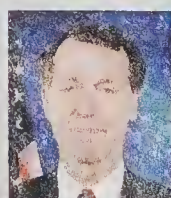


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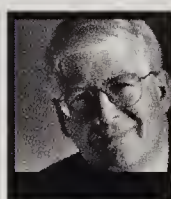


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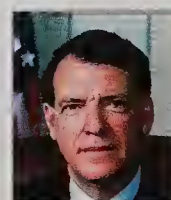


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Bringing back the Bullhole

Citizens revive the Cooleemee cotton mill community by weaving the past into the future

by Elisa Cottrell



The Bullhole on the South Yadkin River below the mill where Cooleemee plans to build a park. (Elisa Cottrell photo)

When the Erwin Cotton Mill #3 in the Davie County town of Cooleemee closed in 1969, the town's future seemed bleak. Its population had dwindled to 877 people from the 2,500 of only a generation or so earlier. Dick Everhart's Service Station, along with the town square, were demolished. Mill life had promised a brighter future for Cooleemee's grandparents who were drawn here from rural farms, but by 1969 that promise had all but vanished for their grandchildren. Until, one day in 1979, a stranger paddling a canoe got out on the wrong side of the South Yadkin River.

That stranger was Jim Rumley. As he wandered up the riverbank, through the small town and past the big cotton mill, he fell in love. Something about this place sparked his imagination and his appreciation for history. He went home to Cornelius, packed up, and moved here. Since then, Cooleemee has not been the same. But Jim Rumley and his wife, Lynn, and the Cooleemee Historical Association, are working hard to keep part of Cooleemee the same. It's the part that made Cooleemee's life so vibrant nearly a century ago.

Life in a cotton mill village

Cooleemee draws its name from the Hairston family plantation that was established along the river in the first half of the 19th century. Legend has it that the word "Cooleemee" was an Indian expression of uncertain origin.

In the latter 1800s, residents of surrounding farms came to work in the emerging industries of Cooleemee. By the time Erwin Mills was built on the river in 1898, mill life offered the advantages of rural life without the isola-

tion. The mill management gave everyone enough land to have a garden, and animal pens were provided around the outskirts of the village for pigs and cows. Many families chose mill village life because of the public education system. Social opportunities abounded in churches, community bands and the children's story hour held above the company store. The town even had its own baseball team – the Cooleemee Cools — which sent six players to the major leagues over the years.

The workers literally wore their work, and you could see it as they emerged from the mill at the end of each day.

The townies from nearby Mocksville called the Cooleemee workers "lint-heads" because of all the lint that would gather on their heads. Having come from farms, most of the workers were used to working 12-hour days, but the day was manageable if you paced yourself and took breaks. In fact, many children would catch up on their work and then go down to a spot in the river, called the Bullhole, to swim or fish.

After work, men would gather outside the café in the town square and sit on the iron rails discussing work, solving problems and, of course, chatting about baseball. The town square was the center of activity in Cooleemee: there was the J.N. Ledford Department Store, the Bank of Cooleemee, the Peerless movie theater, the post office, the phone exchange, Doc Hoyle's Drug Store, a library and barber and beauty shops.

Today, the only remnant of the town square is its image on a mural erected where the town square once stood. Some say life changed when the mill company razed the town square in 1962. Others say it happened when Erwin sold the mill in 1963. And some say that life



Jeremy Sams painted this mural of the town square for Cooleemee's centennial in 1998. The mural, painted on a mill wall, depicts the view from the mill when the square was still there.



They still get together to talk baseball and politics in Cooleemee, but now it's at Davie Discount Drugs. Here are (from left) Jack Soots, former mayor Bill Gales, former town commissioner Hayden Beck, and Raymond Pierce. (Elisa Cottrell photo)

changed much earlier, around 1938, when the mill went to three shifts and outsiders were brought in to work during the introduction of "modern labor management." In any case, when people no longer gathered in the town square, there was no longer a sense of community in Cooleemee.

The last straw

When the property on both sides of the river was posted with "no trespassing" signs last year, the town lost yet another of its favorite gathering spots. The fishing hole, affectionately referred to as the Bullhole, was closed to people like Leon O'Neal who had been fishing there for over 60 years. New generations were missing out on swimming and fishing down at the Bullhole, so the residents of Cooleemee decided something must be done. The Cooleemee Historical Association, led by the Rumleys and Ken Sales, began raising money to open the Bullhole and its surrounding 85-acres to the public. Despite a \$1 million price tag, the residents of Cooleemee are undaunted in their hope to build a park with primitive camping sites, recreational river access, a walking bridge, a riverboat and a sandwich shop. After all, they have already seen their dreams become a reality in the museum they opened.

Today, Cooleemee is home to the first museum of its kind in North Carolina to detail mill village life. The Cooleemee Historical Association opened the Textile Heritage Center museum in 1994 in the former mill manager's home. The place reverently displays pictures of the town square and other scenes of lost days, plus spools, clothing, baseballs and bats, books and maps. Plans are underway to house a mill industry and labor exhibit in a room of the old mill itself, now owned by the Stokes County Yarn Company. And a living museum in an authentically restored mill house would show what it was like to grow up in a Carolina mill village home.

Shaping future generations with the past

The historical association is determined to teach coming generations about the intangibles of life in the Cooleemee mill village, such as honesty, hard work and caring for each other. Through a curriculum developed by the historical association, younger students can experience everyday chores like washing clothes with washboards, gardening and, like so many Cooleemee children before them, bringing the cows in from the pasture for milking. For older students, last year's curriculum included a camping trip along the banks of the Yadkin River with Jim and Lynn Rumley. The students' eagerness and anticipation, as well as the generosity and pride evident among its older residents, not only reminds Cooleemee of its glory days but also ensures that its priceless past is deeply woven into its promising future.

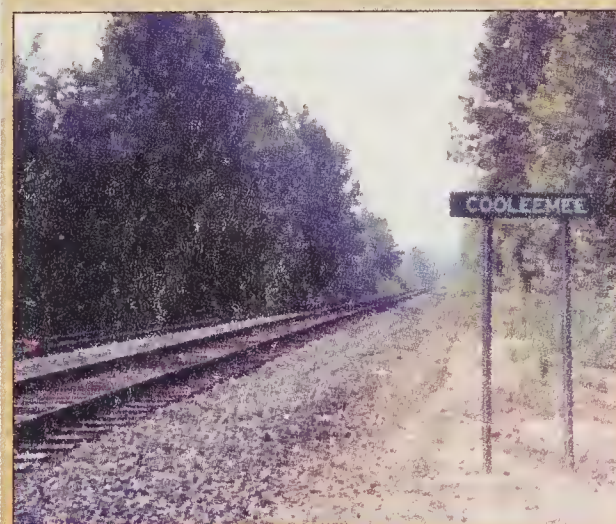


Spinning Room workers at Erwin #3, August 1922. (Photo: Beatty - CHA Archives)



Spinning Room workers at Erwin #3, late 1940s. (Photo: L.G. Scott - CHA Archives)

Cooleemee's Textile Heritage Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum is located at 14 Church Street, Cooleemee, NC 27014. The Cooleemee Historical Association is always interested in hearing from other mill villages or people who grew up in a mill village. Call (704) 284-6040 for more information or visit their Web site at <http://members.tripod.com/~cooleemee/index.html>.



The Southern Railroad's Winston-to-Charlotte line made the birth of Cooleemee possible in the late 1800s. (Photo: Pierce - CHA Archives)

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Mary Rose is the store's designer. Send your comments or suggestions to our storekeeper Elisa Cottrell through the Web site or at Carolina.country@ncemcs.com

Carolina Store
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A Catalog to the
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PORCH TALK

Crown Coliseum Wins Minor League Basketball Team

The Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville has been selected as the first venue to be granted a team in the National Basketball Developmental League. The NBDL will consist of eight teams throughout the Southeast where players over the age of 20 can play until an NBA team signs them. Beginning in November 2001, 26 home games will be played at Crown Coliseum.

For more information, or to purchase tickets call (800) 4NBA-TIX, check out the Web site at www.crown-coliseum.com, or email your name, phone number and email address to nbdltickets@nba.com.

20th Annual North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest

Ready, Set, Gobble! Registration is open for the 20th Annual North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest. Through May 1, 2001, you may submit your best turkey recipe. The recipe should use at least one pound of turkey meat, and serve four or more people. Five finalists will be selected to receive an expense paid trip to prepare their turkey recipes on Friday, September 14, 2001 in Raeford, N.C. A total of \$2,400 in cash prizes will be awarded to the top five winners.

To enter or for rules: send your name, address and telephone number written on the front of each recipe on an 8 1/2 by 11-inch sheet of paper to: TURKEY CONTEST, NC Poultry Federation, 4020 Barrett Drive, Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27609.



Vote for the National Tree

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as people, we must have trees." Our nation has many symbols. Our national flower is the rose, but we don't have a national tree. The National Arbor Day Foundation is offering all Americans the opportunity to choose a national tree.

When you visit www.arborday.org before April 26, 2001, you will be able to vote for America's national tree. If you do not have Internet access and would still like to vote, you may send your vote to The National Arbor Day Foundation, 211 N. 12th St., Lincoln, NE 68508.



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A Catalog to the
North Carolina
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"Women of These Hills, Stories of Growing up in Appalachia"

A new documentary featuring five women from western North Carolina depicts growing up in Appalachia. Vera Cansler, 91, born and raised in the Pisgah Forest; Vera Stinson, 90, from Cedar Mountain; Selena Robinson, 82, from Brevard; Barbara Miller, 67, from Canton; and Sheila Kay Adams, a 47-year old storyteller, musician and folklorist from Sodom share their story of growing up in the Appalachian Mountains.

Written, produced and directed by Tammy Hopkins, "Women of These Hills, Stories of Growing Up in Appalachia" is available on video through The Forest Place, 100 South Broad St., Brevard, NC 28712, or by calling (828) 884-4734. The 79-minute video retails for \$19.95 plus tax.

Carolina Country Store

Eastern N.C. Farmers Help Provide Students with a Nutritious Lunch

Several eastern North Carolina farms are finding an outlet for their fresh produce – the lunchroom cafeterias of 48 school systems. The Farm-to-School initiative began as a pilot program in 1999 with 30 participating school systems and eight farmers. In addition to red and green cabbage, broccoli and sweet potatoes, the farmers also provide watermelon, cantaloupe, apples and strawberries. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham said, "This is a great program because it provides growers with another outlet for their products and it offers school systems the freshest produce available. It puts community dollars back into the local economy." The program is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Participating school systems include: Alamance-Burlington City, Alleghany County, Anson County, Ashe County, Asheboro City, Asheville City, Avery County, Buncombe County, Camden County, Carteret County, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City, Cherokee County, Currituck County, Elkin City, Fort Bragg Dependent, Franklin County, Gates County, Guilford County, Halifax County, Harnett County, Henderson County, Hertford County, Hoke County, Hyde County, Jackson County, Johnston County, Jones County, Martin County, Moore County, Newton/Conover City, Northhampton County, Pamlico County, Perquimans County, Randolph County, Public Schools of Robeson, Rockingham County, Shelby City, Stokes County, Surry County, Thomasville City Tyrrell County, Union County, Vance County, Wake County, Warren County, Wilson County, and Yadkin County.



NC Division & Tourism

Collectible North Carolina Lapel Pins

The Pin Peddlers, a family owned business, has been designing collectible lapel pins for businesses, organizations, clubs, schools and special events since 1986. Last year, owners and pin designers, Tommy and Audrey Brendel, made the lapel pins given to North Carolina volunteers by Governor and Mrs. Hunt. You can see their selection of lapel pins, including a section dedicated exclusively to North Carolina at www.PinPeddlers.com. Call (800) 841-8691 or write to P.O. Box 413, Roaring Gap, NC 28668.

Liven Up Interstate Travel with Audio Travel Companions

Traveling along interstates can be a little dull, but a Raleigh-based business has come up with a solution. Audio Travel Companions are tapes/CDs that contain 12 to 15 different stories about the state's history, culture, recreation, industry, legends and attractions. North Carolina was the first tape the business recorded with stories about barbecue, the textile industry, the Civil War, Roanoke Island, tobacco production, Blackbeard the Pirate, Pinehurst and more. In addition to North Carolina, the company has begun work on the I-95 Corridor Series. South Carolina, Georgia and Florida tapes are already available, with other states along the route in the planning stages.

The tapes and excerpts of the tapes are available at their Web site, <http://www.audiotravelcompanion.com> for \$15.95 plus shipping and handling. You can also reach Audio Travel Companion at P.O. Box 90873, Raleigh, NC 27675-0873.



Green River Plantation

Built in 1804, some 90 years before its close neighbor, the Biltmore Estate, the Green River Plantation is a 19th century, 42-room mansion resting on 366 acres of land. Rich with history, scars from the boots of garrisoned Union soldiers can still be seen in the Drawing Room. The current owners, the Cantrell family, aspired for many years to buy the mansion and restore it. Available for weddings and special occasions or bed and breakfast weekends, the Cantrell family opens the house for tours, too.

For more information, call (828) 286-1461 or visit their Web site at www.green-river.net/.

Carolina
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The North Carolina Renaissance Faire

Step back in time 400 years at the North Carolina Renaissance Festival, March 31 and April 1, 2001. Visit the days of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I, with more than 110 artisans hawking their wares, musicians, jugglers, exotic food, and 8 theatrical stages. The Faire will be held at the NC State Fairgrounds Heritage Village in Raleigh. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for Children (ages 5-12). Children under the age of 5 are admitted free. For more information, call (919) 755-8004 or visit www.ncrenfaire.com.

CD Program Identifies and Helps Manage Common Landscape Pests



"Common Insect Pests of the Landscape," a new CD program from North Carolina State University, is designed to help home gardeners learn more about pests and pest management. The College of Agriculture and Life

Sciences' Department of Communication Services developed the program, with the help of Steve Bambara, an entomologist with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at NCSU. Through photographs and videos, the program shows gardeners what the pests look like and leads them through methods of controlling the pests. The program also features links to Web sites with additional pest control information. The program will run on Windows 95/98 or Mac OS 7.5.5 systems or higher.

To order the program, write to Insect Pests CD, Communication Services, N.C. State University, Box 7603, Raleigh, NC 27695-7603. Each CD costs \$12. Checks and money orders should be made payable to N.C. State University.

Mint Museum's Web Sites for Kids

Several of the Mint Museum's Web sites for children are gaining recognition. At the "Hands On Crafts" Web site you can throw a pot, meet real children potters, enter gallery exhibitions and make cool face jugs. Recently featured as the coolest site of the week by Yahoo! for kids, the site was jointly created with the Public Library of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. As an interactive and fun web site for children and families, the site also celebrates the legacy of North Carolina's rich pottery craft heritage. Enter through the Mint Museum's Web site at www.mintmuseum.org and click on the "Just for Kids" link. While you are there, check out the many other sites the museum has for children of all ages.



Blue Ridge Goodies from Don's Village Market

Deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Don's Village Market, is busy making mountain goodies. Their homemade jams, jellies and fruit butters, which come in many flavors, are made from the same recipes that local families have been passing down for generations.

The pure honey is sure to be a treat, as well as the BBQ sauce, made from an original mountain recipe that's been passed down. Cakes, fudge, sauces and salsas are also available through their Web site at www.donsvillagemarket.com or contact them at 7441 Dillard Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775. Phone: (828) 526-5214.



Building a Better Mouse

Before pointing and clicking became as routine as dialing and talking, if you saw a mouse you screamed and jumped up on a table, at least according to the cliché.

Today some experts think you should avoid computer mice with the same decisiveness. Ergonomically, a mouse is the most dangerous part of a computer system, says Deborah Quilter, author of "The Repetitive Strain Injury Recovery Book."

Most people mouse around without incident. Typically people use the mouse that came with their computer without giving it a second thought.

It can make sense, though, to think about the unfuzzy little device you push around to navigate programs and documents. New mice have been introduced recently as upgrades for standard mice. And when using your existing mouse, making even small changes in your work habits can stave off potential injury.

The two companies that sell the most replacement mice are Microsoft and Logitech, and both have come out with new models sporting sophisticated technology.

Microsoft now features a family of pointing devices that use light to track movement. Microsoft's IntelliMouse Optical (\$45), at www.microsoft.com/mouse/mouse.htm, completely eliminates the rubber mouse ball. The benefits, according to the company, are no skipping and jamming, no moving parts to clean or wear out, and no need for a mouse pad.

The mouse performed well for me, though long-term use would be needed to verify Microsoft's claims. I liked the extra buttons on the side, which you can use to go forward or backward on the Web or customize to use as shortcuts in word processing and other programs.

Microsoft's Trackball Optical (\$40) features similar technology, but as with all trackballs, it requires you to maneuver a ball with your fingers instead of an entire mouse with your hand. This takes some getting used to — some people wind up liking trackballs, some don't.

Whereas Microsoft uses groundbreaking optical technology in its pointing devices, Logitech uses groundbreaking tactile technology. With its IFeel Mouse (\$40), at www.logitech.com/cf/products/mice.cfm, you can actually feel the mouse pointer move over icons, menus, and hyperlinks.

Once I got past the gee-whiz, the tactile feedback didn't do much for me, though I can see how it could help those who occasionally have trouble aligning the mouse pointer with its intended target.

Both Microsoft's and Logitech's offerings bring technological enhancements to the party, but they do nothing to eliminate the

two primary causes of ergonomic problems with mice — moving your shoulder forward and sideways and bending your wrist upward. "Mice put your hand and arm in the two most dangerous positions at once," says Quilter.



One solution in avoiding "mouse shoulder" is to use a keyboard with a built-in trackball, such as Key Tronic's Lifetime Trackball Keyboard (\$90), at www.keytronic.com/home/keyboards/keyboards.html. The trackball, being in front of your torso rather than to the side, keeps your shoulder in place.

If you use a mouse or trackball that's separate from the keyboard, which most people do, keep it positioned as close to the keyboard as possible.

No matter which input device you use, take special care in keeping your wrists from bending upward to help avoid carpal tunnel syndrome and other wrist maladies. Most so-called ergonomic keyboards don't provide adequate wrist support. Many people rest their wrists on the wrist support, which can still cause your wrists to dangerously bend upward.

Ideally, you should type without touching the wrist support, holding your wrists above the support except when resting. If you do place your wrists on the support while typing, you should obtain a separate wrist support that provides adequate elevation. You should also obtain a wrist support for your mouse.

Using a different mouse pointer can also help, particularly if you use a laptop computer or have vision problems. Microsoft provides easier-to-see mouse pointers that you can download for free at <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q154/5/00.asp>.

Technological enhancements such as those provided by Microsoft and Logitech are impressive. But when the mouse that came with my primary work computer conked out recently, I went the low-tech route.

I've had success in the past prolonging the life of ordinary mice using a 3M Precise Mousing Surface (\$10), at www.3m.com/market/consumer/pms, instead of a mousepad. Its textured surface helps keep dirt away from a mouse's innards.

So I wound up buying a no-name mouse at a local computer show. It feels good, works well, and looks nice. At \$5, if I knock it on the floor by mistake, I won't be jumping up on my desk in horror.

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or members.home.net/reidgold.

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A wood pellet heater is an efficient, earth-friendly heating source

By James Dulley

A wood pellet heater is an efficient, convenient-to-use, earth-friendly heating source for homes. I have personally tested and used three different designs of wood pellet heaters, and each one has worked flawlessly.

A pellet heater is particularly useful in severely cold weather, especially if you have a heat pump. Often the extra heat from the pellet heater can keep the backup electric resistance heating elements from coming on. Many models also have automatic battery-backup power. If the electricity goes off during a storm, the pellet stove auger and blowers will continue to run.

Locating the pellet heater in your most frequently used room, can keep that room toasty warm while the rest of the house stays efficiently cool. This type of "zone" heating can save a bundle on your heating bills and keeps your home more comfortable overall.

The 40-pound bags of pellets generally cost between \$2.85 to \$3.00 in the Midwest. At a low-heat output setting – enough to take a chill off a room or two – a bag can last 30 to 40 hours. With the pellet heater set on high output, which will keep several rooms or your entire house toasty warm, a bag will last more than 12 hours, eliminating the need to get up at night to feed it.

Each pellet heater has a hopper built into the back, some of which will hold up to two bags of wood pellets. Every day or two check the level of pellets in the hopper, and add more when it gets low. Many pellet stoves can also burn cherry pits or old feed corn, which is very inexpensive.

The wood pellets look a lot like rabbit food and are 100 percent natural and renewable. They are made of sawdust collected from sawmills that would otherwise end up in landfills. The sawdust is heated and compressed causing the natural resins in the wood to stick together, forming hard pellets. Burning wood pellets is greenhouse gas neutral because the new growing trees consume the CO₂ gas given off when you burn the wood pellets.

Pellet heaters are available as either freestanding styles or fireplace insert styles. The freestanding ones are simple to install because no chimney is needed. A small exhaust fan in the back of the heater sucks combustion air through the fire and forces the flue gases outdoors through a short double-wall vent pipe.

With the negative pressure inside the unit, no smoke gets into the room.

The efficiency and clean-burning characteristics of a pellet heater is a result of the small pellet size and the abundance of combustion air. The tremendous amount of surface area on the tiny pellets and the exhaust fan, which circulates combustion air all around them, burns them completely, creating no smoke and leaving very little ash.

You can control the heat output (room temperature) with a wall thermostat or a dial on the heater. For more heat, a tiny auger inside the heater feeds pellets into the firepot at a faster rate. A microprocessor inside the heater automatically adjusts the combustion airflow rate for the best efficiency. Pellet heaters also have built-in adjustable room air blowers that circulate the room air through heat exchangers and back out into the room.

Most of the newer pellet heaters are about the size of a small wood-burning stove. They have an attractive pedestal base with brass trim, large glass doors on the front that allow viewing of the flames, and even 24-karat gold-plated trim. The main body of most heaters is made of heavy-gauge welded steel, and some use a cast iron door that allows for a more ornate design.

The only time you need to open the front glass door is to put some pellets in the firepot to start the fire. The ash pan below needs to be emptied about once per week. For the most convenience, some models have built-in glow plug flame starters that automatically ignite the pellets when you push the start button.

Write for (or instantly download at www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 461 - buyer's guide of 14 wood pellet heater manufacturers listing styles, heat output, hopper capacity, auger type, vent location, prices, features and a fuel cost comparison chart. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. Send it to James Dulley, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 54987, Cincinnati, OH 45254.

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Core Sound I

By Scott Taylor



Core Sound I

Scott Taylor

This image of Core Sound by Beaufort photographer Scott Taylor is included in his new book of "Coastal Waters - Images of North Carolina." The book contains 96 black and white images taken over a 20-year period along the coast of North Carolina. Copies of the book can be found online at Amazon books and Barnes & Nobles, at your local bookstores or by contacting the publisher, Coastal Carolina Press at (910) 794-9900.

Fine art prints of "Core Sound I" and others are available. Scott Taylor hand prints and signs each fine art photograph. Each is archivally processed to museum standards and selenium toned for maximum longevity. Prints are mounted and matted on acid-free 4-ply white museum board.

Photographs are available in two sizes: 16 by 20 inches mat size (image approximately 9 by 12)

and 11 by 14 inches mat size (image approximately 6 by 9 inches). Prices are \$100 and \$200, plus shipping and handling.

Because each order is hand printed, please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Scott Taylor has worked with the Duke University Marine Laboratory and Duke University. He operates his photography business in Beaufort and teaches at Carteret Community College.

For more information contact either place:

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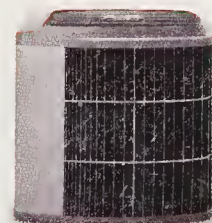
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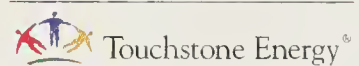


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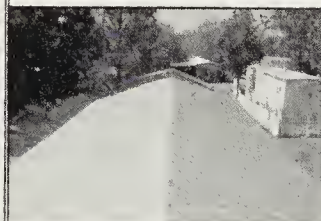
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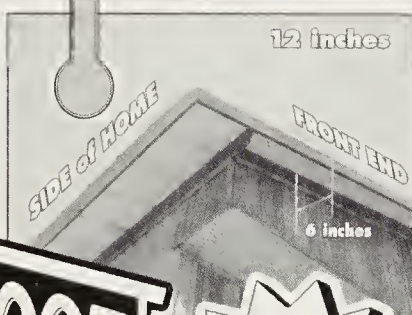
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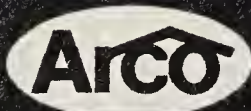
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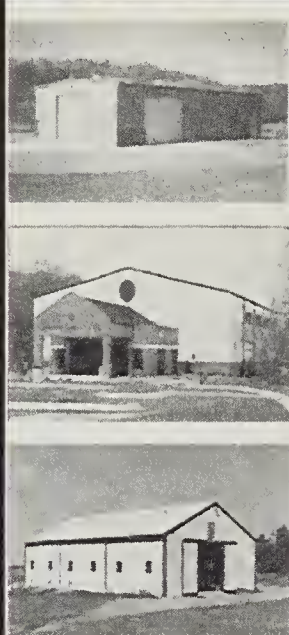
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S T R E E

4

S

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4

M E

R E

4

R E

4

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E

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You will find the answer on page 45. To see how we arrived at this solution, send a stamped self-addressed envelope, along with your comments, to:

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C + A + R + O + L + I + N + A + C + O + U + N + T + R + Y = _____

Answers are on page 45

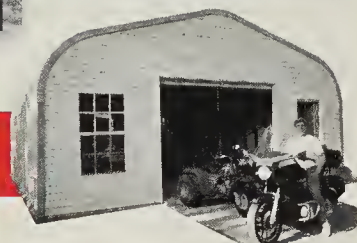
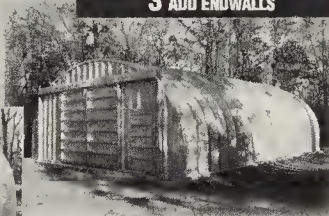
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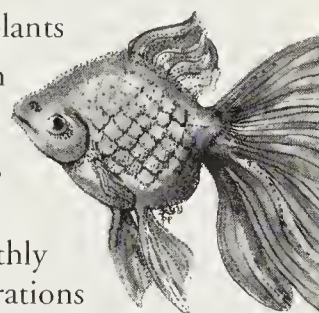
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e-mail: jmevans@friendlycity.net

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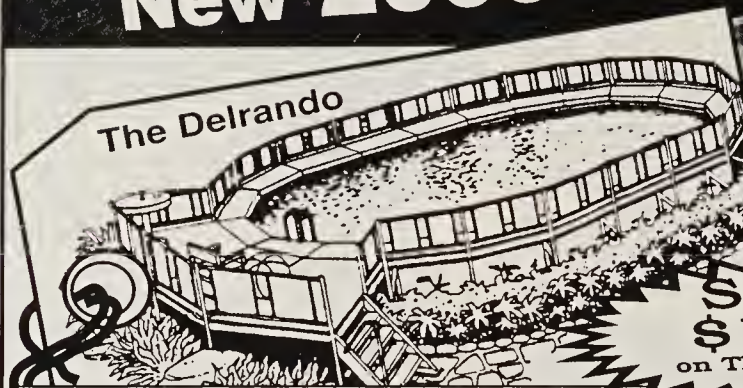
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"Closer to the Time"

March 1-30, Gastonia
African-American photography
exhibit, Art 1 Gallery,
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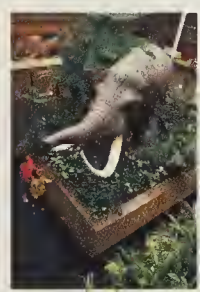
Farm Toy Show

March 2-3, Jonesville
Holiday Inn (Jct. I-77 & Hwy
67), (336) 468-2575

"Barefoot in the Park"

March 2-4, Marion
Neil Simon play, The Art
Center, (828) 659-7529

NC Freshwater Fish Exhibit



March 3,
Gastonia
Mobile aquarium and fish
biologist,
Schiele
Museum of
Natural History,
(704) 866-6900

Birds of the Woods

March 3, Lake James State Park
Slide show and hike,
(828) 652-5047

Live! Yard Sale of Treasures

March 3, Shelby
Giant yard sale to benefit eld-
erly and disabled adults,
Cleveland County Fairgrounds,
(704) 484-5483

Spring Frolic Beach Party

March 3-4, Maggie Valley
Cataloochee Ski Area,
(800) 768-0285

The Isaacs

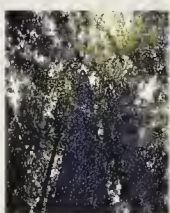
March 10, Lenoir
Blue Grass Gospel Singing
Concert, Caldwell County
Fairgrounds, (828) 758-2278

Lake Channel Overlook Hike

March 10, Lake James State Pk
Guided hike, (828) 652-5047

Animal Encounters

March 10 & 13, Gastonia
Family program featuring live
animals, Schiele Museum of
Natural History,
(704) 866-6900



Arbor Day Celebration

March 16, Shelby
Free tree
seedlings, Smokey
the Bear,

Cleveland County Chamber,
(704) 484-3100

"Spirit of Elvis"

March 17, West Jefferson
Concert, Ashe Civic Center,
(336) 246-4483

Walking the Wetlands

March 17, Lake James State
Park
Discussion and hike,
(828) 652-5047

Lenoir-Rhyne Jazz Ensemble Swing Dance

March 17, Hickory
Moretz Gymnasium, Lenoir-
Rhyne College,
(828) 328-7173, www.lrc.edu



"The Old Barn and other Architectural Relics"

March 18, Asheville
Exhibit, Southern Highland
Craft Guild, (828) 298-7928,
www.southernhighlandguild.org

Haywood Gospel Jubilee

March 24, Canton
Canton Recreation Area,
(828) 926-2741

"1964"

March 27, West Jefferson
Concert tribute to the Beatles,
(336) 246-4483

Leahy

March 30, Wilkesboro
Canadian Celtic music and
dance concert, Walker Center,
(336) 838-6260

"The Hot Ticket Review"

March 30-April 8, Waynesville
Songs from Broadway musi-
cals, Performing Arts Center,
(828) 456-6322

25th Annual Gem and Mineral Show

March 30-April 1, Morganton
Collett Street Recreation
Center, (828) 438-5350

Grand Ole Opry's Jim & Jesse Show

March 31, West Jefferson
Bluegrass performance, Ashe
Civic Center, (336) 246-4483

Ashe County Youth Chorus

April 1, Jefferson
Ashe County High School,
(336) 246-ARTS

PIEDMONT

(between I-77 and I-95)

"Peter Pan"

March 1, Mount Airy
Play, Andy Griffith Playhouse,
(800) 286-6193

Angier Centennial Celebration

March 3, Angier
Parade, clock dedication, fire-
works, (919) 639-2500

The Drifters, The Platters, and The Coasters

March 3, Winston-Salem
Concert, The Stevens Center,
(336) 721-1945

Fiddlers and Bluegrass Convention

March 3, Statesville
Statesville High School,
(704) 872-6776

Southern Spring Show

Through March 4, Charlotte
Charlotte Merchandise Mart,
(800) 849-0248,
www.southernshows.com

Carolina Jazz Festival

Through March 4, Chapel Hill
Celebrating Louis Armstrong,
UNC Campus,
(919) 962-1449

Mountain Heart

March 10, Mocksville
Brock Performing Arts Center,
(336) 751-3000



The Lonesome River Band

March 10, Mount Airy
Live Bluegrass music,
Downtown Cinema Theatre,
(800) 286-6193

War Memorabilia & Arms Show

March 10-11, Fayetteville
National Guard Armory,
(704) 282-1339,
www.TheCarolinaTrader.com

"Elijah"

March 11, Southern Pines
Performance by Moore County
Choral Society, Sandhills
Community College,
(910) 949-2533



"They're Playing Our Song"

March 14, Winston-Salem
Musical Comedy, The Stevens
Center, (336) 721-1945

Southern Pines Horse Trials

March 16-18, Five Points
Horse Park
(910) 245-3049

Horse Track Open House

March 17, Pinehurst
Watch and talk to trainers,
(800) 644-8768

Celtic Music

March 18, Mount Airy
St. Patrick's holiday special,
Gertrude Smith House,
(800) 576-0231

"Ansel Adams, A Legacy"

Through March 18,
Fayetteville
Exhibit at Museum of Art,
(910) 485-5121

German Heritage Festival

March 24, Pinnacle
Horne Creek Living Historical
Farm, (336) 325-2298



Rail Days

March 28-31,
Spencer
Family Day,
Senior Day,
Steam Train
Rides, North
Carolina

Transportation

Museum, (877) NCTM-FUN,
www.nctrans.org

"Walking Across Egypt"

March 29-31, April 1, 4-7,
Salisbury
Comedy adapted by Clyde
Edgerton for the Piedmont
Players, (704) 633-5471

The Fine Arts of Being Southern

March 29-April 3, Wingate
Symposium of Southern artists
and writers, Wingate
University

Gem & Mineral Club Show

March 30-April 1, Greensboro
Greensboro Coliseum,
(336) 668-2081,
www.thedepot.com/rock-hounds/

North Carolina Renaissance Faire

March 31-April 1, Raleigh
NC State Fairgrounds,
(919) 755-8004,
www.ncrenfaire.com

Harness Track Races

April 1, Pinehurst
Pinehurst Harness Track,
Route 5, (910) 295-4446

Photography Exhibit

Through April 1, Raleigh
"Is Seeing Believing? The Real,
The Surreal, The Unreal in
Contemporary Photography,"
NC Museum of Art,
(919) 839-6262

"The Sodbather"

Through April 4, Raleigh
Exhibit honoring Jim Graham,
(919) 515-2273

"Living with History: Views of Salem's Past"

Through April 6, Winston-
Salem
The Gallery at Old Salem,
(888) 653-7253,
www.oldsalem.org



"Noble Dreams, Wicked Pleasures: Orientalism in America, 1870-1930"

Through April 22, Charlotte
Exhibit, Mint Museum of Art,
(704) 337-2101,
www.mintmuseum.org

"Brain Teasers"

Through May 5, Oxford
Problem solving puzzles
exhibit, Granville County
Museum, (919) 693-9706,
www.oxfordnc.org/museum.html

COAST (East of I-95)

Millie-Christine: The Story of Two Women

March 2, Wilmington
Author shares stories about
Siamese twins, Cape Fear
Museum, (910) 341-4350

Spring Choral Spectacular

March 3, Wilmington
Wilmington Choral Society,
Grace United Methodist
Church, (910) 352-6629

Weird Science

March 10, Wilmington
Amazing at home experi-
ments, Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Clarinet/Bassoon/Piano Trio

March 10, Oriental
Pamlico Co. Civic & Cultural
Center,
(252) 249-3079,
www.pamlicomusic.org

Michael Cooper in Concert

March 10, Wilmington
Storytelling, drama, Thalian
Hall, (800) 523-2820

Pi Day

March 14, Wilmington
A celebration of math, Cape
Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Antique Show & Sale

March 16-18, Edenton
Barker House on South Broad
Street,
(800) 775-0111

Roanoke Doll Show & Sale

March 17, Williamston
Martin County Farmers
Market, (252) 792-8956

Patti Page in Concert

March 17-18, Wilmington
Grammy award winning per-
former, Thalian Hall,
(800) 523-2820



136th Anniversary of Bentonville Battleground

March 17-18, Four Oaks
Commemorative living history
program, (910) 594-0789

Spring Tonics

March 18, Wilmington
Folk- and plant-based reme-
dies, Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Cucalorus Film Festival

March 22-25, Wilmington
Independent film and video
screenings, (910) 343-5995,
www.cucalorus.org

"An Enchanted Evening"

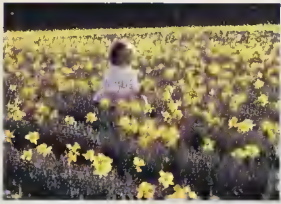
March 23, Edenton
Opera Carolina, Swain
Auditorium, (252) 482-8005

Southern Facelifts: Stories of Notable House Renovations

March 23, Wilmington
Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Old Fashion Planter's Day

March 24-25, White Oak
Butler Farms Hwy. 53,
(910) 866-4503



Daffodil Festival Open House

March 27, Fremont
19th century activities, Aycock
Birthplace, (919) 242-5581

Holy Sonatas of Mozart and Corelli

March 30, Wilmington
Organ and string ensemble
concert, St. James Parish,
(910) 763-1628

Ciampi Quartet

March 30, Oriental
Concert, Pamlico Co. Civic &
Cultural Center,
(252) 249-3079,
www.pamlicomusic.org

Leahy

March 31, Wilmington
Canadian Celtic music and
dance concert, UNCW, Kenan
Auditorium, (800) 523-2820

"Down the Garden Path" Show

March 31-April 1, Barco
Exhibits, vendors, workshops,
fun for children, Currituck
County High School,
(252) 232-2262

Herb & Garden Fair

March 31, Wilmington
Poplar Grove Plantation,
(910) 686-9518,
www.poplargrove.com



Coastal Living Show

March 31-April 1,
Wilmington
UNCW, Trask Coliseum,
(910) 256-2118

Blackbeard Artifacts Exhibit

Through May 31, Beaufort
N.C. Maritime Museum,
(252) 728-7317

*Photos courtesy of NC Division of
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Listing Information

Deadline for May March 23
Deadline for June April 24

A phone number must be included
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Gym buddy. A unique triple-cut system with counter-directional cutters helps Remington's MicroScreen Sport deliver an ultra-close shave, and a high-speed motor means you'll get the job done quickly. Designed for the active man, its comfortable grip makes it easy to use in the gym, office or at home. You'll find it at K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Target and drug stores for around \$60. Call (800) REMINGTON.



Quick charge. It takes just an hour to charge up Norelco's Quandra Action Shaving System for 45 minutes of cordless shave time. The company's top-of-the-line shaver uses a two-stage cutting system with specially positioned slots to catch and cut longer hairs and holes to snip away stubble. Rinse the gadget under water and it's ready for the next use. The price: \$130 to \$160 at discount and drug stores.

Call (800) 243-3050.



Sensitive skin? Whether you're shaving for the first time or have a tough beard, the Wahl Custom Shave System 4000 has a foil for you. The lightweight shaver has three foil heads: for sensitive skin, a close shave or a super-close shave. A powerful motor means high-speed cutting. And the shaver operates without the cord—or with it when the battery's running low. Look for it wherever electric shavers are sold, and expect to pay around \$50. For more information, call



(800) 776-9245.

Wet or dry. You can immerse this wet/dry shaver in water to clean it when you're finished. That's after you run the floating double heads and slide-up trimmer over your beard. Panasonic's Sonic Shaving-Cyber shaver has a light on the front that tells you when it's time to recharge. It sells for around \$86 at drug stores and national discount chains. Call (800) 338-0552.



Spa treatment. Guys aren't the only ones who need a close, comfortable shave. For removing hair from under arms, legs and bikini lines, Emjoi's Gently Caress shaver was rated best in its class by the Hammacher Schlemmer catalog. The rechargeable, two-speed razor removes most of the hair from the root with little irritation, so it stays gone for up to four weeks. It sells for \$89.95 through the Hammacher Schlemmer catalog. Call (800) 543-3366.



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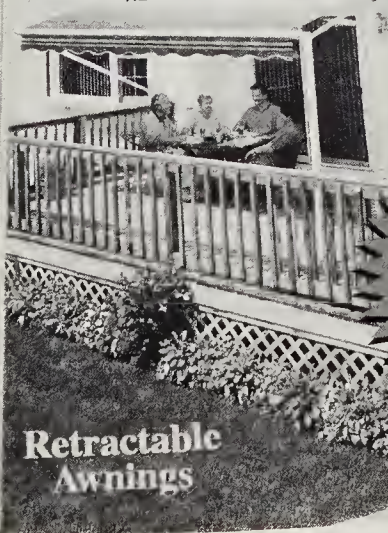


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Success in the summer garden and lawn depends upon what is accomplished in the next few weeks. Among current chores that should be performed: Groom spring flowering shrubs and bulbs; divide crowded perennials; repair winter storm damage; start bedding plants for use in containers on patios, decks, terraces and window boxes; mulch and remulch; fertilize chlorotic plants; apply pesticides for persistent chinch bug problems; and the list goes on and on.

Head start: starter solution

By feeding transplanted seedlings a starter solution, there is a lower degree of transplanting shock. Prepare the solution by dissolving three level tablespoons of an 8-8-8 fertilizer, or comparable analysis fertilizer, in a gallon of water. To give fertilizer time to dissolve, make the mixture several hours before it will be used, then pour a cupful around each newly set plant.

Lattice vs. Animals

A piece of lattice is helpful in keeping animals from digging in flower gardens. Cut a piece of treated lattice to fit the flowerbed, and then place it on top of the prepared soil. Plant seeds or bedding plants in the openings between slats, then water. Plants will mature to cover the lattice and animals will be unable to dig in the soil below.

Clean pruning equipment

Immediately after use, clean and oil pruning shears, loppers and saws. A medium grade of steel wool may be used to remove gum, plant tissue and rust, which accumulate on the tools. After all traces of debris have been removed, apply a light-weight oil to all parts. Tools will then be ready for use when the next pruning job comes along.

Ask Hank

Q. In early spring, I see neighbors spreading sand over their lawns. Our basic soil here is heavy clay. Will sand help to loosen the clay?

T.E.R. Roxboro, NC

A. Spreading sand over the lawn and letting it filter down into clay soil may create more problems. A little sand added to clay soil over a period of years may set like concrete, forming a solid layer that will not allow water to penetrate and causes grass roots to become shallow. A top dressing of organic matter and a fertilizer program are the best materials to help the lawn.

Send your questions for Hank to
Carolina.country@ncemcs.com or P.O. Box
27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Cannas give easy flowers

Making a strong comeback in Southern gardens, cannas grow easily in fertile, moist soil and succeed in full sun or part shade. New introductions have given impetus to their popularity with some hybrids producing pastel blooms, and others producing bronze colored foliage. The "banana tree" foliage and showy flowers lend a tropical accent to the summer scene. Cannas are effective in beds by themselves, massed at the base of large shrubs, or as tub specimens on the patio, terrace or deck. They add a pleasing accent when grown near a water garden or swimming pool. After a few years of growth, cannas may become crowded and matted. It's advisable to dig and divide the clumps every three or four years. Roots can become so matted that plants decline in vigor, producing fewer and smaller flowers. Using a sharp knife, cut the root mass into sections leaving a growth bud on each piece. Plant pieces 12-24 inches apart, 3-5 inches deep. Follow this procedure when planting roots that have been stored indoors.



Roses

Continue spraying roses at weekly intervals to prevent blackspot, a destructive fungus disease. Keep water off rose leaves to discourage powdery mildew. Watch out for Japanese beetles, a true pest to developing flower buds, as well as full-blown blossoms. When cutting roses for indoor enjoyment, clip the stem just below a leaf joint. Cutting on a slant exposes more of the inside of the stem. This encourages water intake. Flower preservative from a florist aids in extending the life of a cut flower. Apply the powder to the water in the vase. Placing stems in a deep container of water in the refrigerator for about an hour will "harden off" the stem to extend the life of the blossom.

March into Spring

- Plant shade-tolerant ground cover such as vincas, ajugas, liriopse, pachysandra or English ivy in areas where grass will not grow while the weather is still cool.
- In sunny areas, cover bare spots with low-spreading junipers, cotoneaster (rock spray) or santolina.
- Azaleas can be safely transplanted before hot weather arrives. After moving, apply a thick mulch.
- When azaleas have finished flowering, feed with a complete camellia-azalea fertilizer.
- Planting time for warm-season bulbs, like Caladiums and gladioli, is coming up soon. Feed bulbs with a high phosphorus fertilizer to encourage growth and insure health for next year's flowers.
- Plant vegetable seeds like snap beans, okra, sweet corn and squash in late March or early April.
- Give spring-flowering trees, shrubs and bulbs an application of fertilizer when blooms are spent. Give woody ornamentals a complete fertilizer with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.
- Give fruit and nut trees a high nitrogen fertilizer.
- The warm days of spring signal a good time to apply lime to lawn areas. A soil test will reveal if and how much the lawn needs. Since lime penetrates soil slowly, apply it in time for early spring showers that help it descend into the soil layers where lime counteracts acidity. The changing temperatures of cool nights and warm days will help break down the lime so it can do its work.
- Poppy, nasturtium, alyssum, godetia, lupin, portulaca, kochia, linaria, salpiglossis and dwarf phlox require direct seeding in the garden, as they often suffer setbacks after transplanting.
- When Easter lilies are in bloom, pluck the stamens to remove yellow pollen as soon as it is visible. This prevents ripening pollen from discoloring petals, making flowers last longer.

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JOYNER ANSWERS

What is the value of Carolina Country?

answer: 2+4+0+3+9+5+6+4+2+3+7+6+1+0+8=60

Math Words

answer: TREE/S = KITE

8400/5 = 1680

Match Boxes

answer: seedtime harvest



SLOW-COOKED LEMON CHICKEN

6 bone-in chicken breast halves (about 3 pounds), skin removed
1 teaspoon dried oregano
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon seasoned salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water
3 tablespoons lemon juice
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 teaspoon chicken bouillon granules
2 teaspoons minced fresh parsley
Hot cooked rice

Pat chicken dry with paper towels. Combine the oregano, seasoned salt and pepper; rub over chicken. In a skillet over medium heat, brown the chicken in butter; transfer to a 5-quart slow cooker. Add water, lemon juice, garlic and bouillon to the skillet; bring to a boil, stirring to loosen browned bits. Pour over chicken. Cover and cook on low for 3-4 hours. Baste the chicken. Add parsley. Cover and cook 15-30 minutes longer or until meat juices run clear. If desired, thicken cooking juices and serve over chicken and rice. Yield: 6 servings.

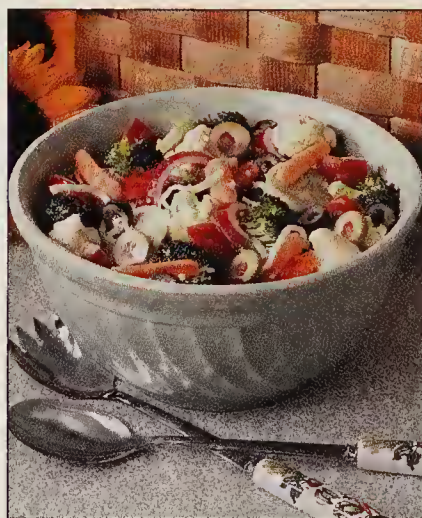
ITALIAN VEGETABLE SALAD

5 cups broccoli florets (1 large bunch)
5 cups cauliflowerets (1 small head)
4 plum tomatoes, chopped
1 medium cucumber, peeled and sliced
1 medium sweet onion, thinly sliced
1 cup sliced carrots
2 cans (2- $\frac{1}{4}$ ounces each) sliced ripe olives, drained
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sliced stuffed olives
1 bottle (8 ounces) Italian salad dressing
1 bottle (8 ounces) creamy Italian salad dressing
2 cups (8 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese

In a large salad bowl, combine the first eight ingredients. Combine salad dressings; pour over vegetable mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Stir in cheese just before serving. Yield: 14 servings.

Nutritional Analysis: One serving (prepared with fat-free salad dressings and part-skim mozzarella cheese) equals 121 calories, 531 mg sodium, 10 mg cholesterol, 11 gm carbohydrate, 6 gm protein, 6 gm fat.

Diabetic Exchanges: 2 vegetable, 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ fat.



RASPBERRY WHITE CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

1 package (10 ounces)
sweetened frozen raspberries, thawed
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon orange juice concentrate
2 cups whipping cream
6 ounces white baking chocolate
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup milk chocolate chips
1 teaspoon vegetable oil



In a blender, combine the raspberries, sugar and orange juice concentrate; cover and process until smooth. Press through a sieve; discard seeds. Refrigerate sauce. In a saucepan over low heat, cook and stir cream and white chocolate until chocolate is melted. Stir in vanilla. Transfer to a mixing bowl. Cover and refrigerate for 6 hours or until thickened, stirring occasionally. Beat cream mixture on high speed until light and fluffy, about 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes (do not overbeat). Just before serving, melt chocolate chips and oil in a microwave or saucepan. Spoon 2 tablespoons of raspberry sauce on each plate. Pipe or spoon $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chocolate mousse over sauce; drizzle with melted chocolate. Store leftovers in the refrigerator. Yield: 8 servings.

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